

# POI

The other level *pointblank* at the inventing of causes and axioms.

Unless it be the cannon ball,  
That shot it's air *pointblank* upright,  
Was born to that prodigious height,  
That learn'd philoſophers maintain,  
It ne'er came back.

The faculties that were given us for the glory of our matter,  
are turned *pointblank* againſt the intention of them: *L'Eſtr.*  
Eſtius declares, that although all the ſchoolmen were for  
Latria to be given to the croſs, yet that it is *pointblank* againſt  
the definition of the council of Nice.

23. *Point de viſe*; exact or exactly in the point of view.

Every thing about you ſhould demonſtrate a careleſs deſo-  
lation; but you are rather *point de viſe* in your accoutrements,  
as loving yourſelf, than the lover of another.

I will baffle Sir Toby, I will waſh off groſs acquaintance,  
I will be *point de viſe* the very man.

Men's behaviour ſhould be like their apparel, not too  
ſtraight or *point de viſe*, but free for exerciſe.

To *POINT*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To ſharpen; to forge or grind to a point.

The princes of Germany had but a dull fear of the great-  
neſs of Spain; now that fear is ſharpened and *pointed*, by  
the Spaniards late enterprizes upon the Palatinate.

Part-new grind the blunted ax, and *point* the dart.

What help will all my heav'nly friends afford,  
When to my breaſt I liſt the *pointed* ſword.

The two pinnæ ſtand upon either ſide, like the wings in the  
petasus of a Mercury, but riſe much higher, and are  
more *pointed*.

Some on *pointed* wood

Transfix'd the fragments, ſome prepar'd the food.

2. To direct towards an object, by way of forcing it on the  
notice.

Alas to make me

A fixed figure, for the hand of ſcorn

To *point* his ſlow unmeaning finger at.

Mount Hermon, yonder ſea, each place behold

As I *point*.

3. To direct the eye or notice.

Whoever ſhould be guided through his battles by Mi-  
nerva, and *pointed* to every ſcene of them, would ſee nothing  
but ſubjects of ſurprize.

4. To ſhow as by directing the finger.

From the great ſea, you ſhall *point* out for you mount Hor.

It will become us, as rational creatures, to follow the di-  
rection of nature, where it ſeems to *point* us out the way.

I ſhall do juſtice to thoſe who have diſtinguiſhed them-  
ſelves in learning, and *point* out their beauties.

Is not the elder

By nature *pointed* out for preference?

5. [*Pointer*, Fr.] To direct towards a place: as, the cannon  
were *pointed* againſt the fort.

6. To diſtinguiſh by ſtops or points.

To *POINT*. *v. n.*

1. To note with the finger; to force upon the notice, by di-  
recting the finger towards it. With at commonly, ſometimes  
before the thing indigitated.

Now muſt the world *point* at poor Catharine,

And ſay, lo! there is mad Petruchio's wife.

Sometimes we uſe one finger only, as in *pointing* at any  
thing.

Who fortune's fault upon the poor can throw,

*Point* at the tatter'd coat and ragged ſhoe.

Rouſe up for flame! our brothers of Phariſaia

*Point* at their wounds, and cry aloud to battle.

2. To diſtinguiſh words or ſentences by points.

Fond the Jews are of their method of *pointing*.

3. To indicate as dogs do to ſportſmen.

The ſubtle dog ſcow'rs with ſagacious noſe,

Now the warm ſcent afflures the covey near,

He treads with caution, and he *points* with fear.

4. To ſhow.

To *point* at what time the balance of power was moſt  
equally held between their lords and commons in Rome,  
would perhaps admit a controverſy.

*POINTED*. *adj.* or *participle*. [from *point*.]

1. Sharp; having a ſharp point or pic.

Who now reads Cowley? if he pleaſes, yet

His moral pleaſes, not his *pointed* wit;

A *pointed* flinty rock, all bare and black,

Grew gibbous from behind.

2. Epigrammatical; abounding in conceits.

*POINTEDLY*. *adv.* [from *pointed*.] In a pointed manner.

The copiouſneſs of his wit was ſuch, that he often writ  
too *pointedly* for his ſubject.

*POINTEDNESS*. *n. f.* [from *pointed*.]

1. Sharpneſs; pickedeſs with aſperity.

The vicious language is vaſt and gaping, ſwelling and ir-  
regular; when it contends to be high, full of rock, moun-  
tain and *pointedneſs*.

2. Epigrammatical ſmartneſs.

Like Horace, you only expoſe the follies of men; and in  
this excel him, that you add *pointedneſs* of thought.

*POINTEL*. *n. f.* Any thing on a point.

Theſe poiſes or *pointels* are, for the moſt part, little balls,  
ſet at the top of a ſlender ſtalk, which they can move every  
way at pleaſure.

*POINTER*. *n. f.* [from *point*.]

1. Any thing that points.

I ought to tell him what are the wheels, ſprings, *pointer*,  
hammer and bell whereby a clock gives notice of the time.

2. A dog that points out the game to ſportſmen.

The well taught *pointer* leads the way,

The ſcent grows warm; he ſtops, he ſprings his prey.

*POINTINGSTOCK*. *n. f.* [*pointing* and *stock*.] Something made  
the object of ridicule.

I, his ſorlorn dutcheſs,

Was made a wonder and a *pointingſtock*

To every idle raſcal follower.

*POINTLESS*. *adj.* [from *point*.] Blunt; not ſharp; obtuſe.

Lay that *pointleſs* clergy-weapon by,

And to the laws, your ſword of juſtice, fly.

*POISON*. *n. f.* [*poison*, Fr.] That which deſtroys or injures  
life by a ſmall quantity, and by means not obvious to the  
ſenſes; venom.

The tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly *poison*.

Theſelves were firſt to do the ill,

E'er they thereof the knowledge could attain;

Like him that knew not *poison*'s power to kill,

Until, by taſting it, himſelf was ſlain.

One gives another a cup of *poison*, but at the ſame time  
tells him it is a cordial, and ſo he drinks it off and dies.

To *POISON*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To infect with *poison*.

Envy is a lawleſs enemy, againſt whom *poisoned* arrows  
may be uſed.

2. To attack, injure or kill by *poison* given.

He was ſo diſcouraged, that he *poisoned* himſelf and died.

3. To corrupt; to taint.

The other meſſenger,

Whoſe welcome I perceiv'd, had *poison'd* mine.

Haſt thou not

With thy falſe arts *poison'd* his people's loyalty?

*POISON-TREE*. *n. f.* [*toxicodendron*.] A plant. The flower  
conſiſts of five leaves, which are placed orbicularly, and ex-  
pand in form of a roſe, out of whoſe flower cup riſes the  
pointal, which afterwards becomes a roundiſh, dry, and for  
the moſt part a furrow'd fruit, in which is contained one  
compressed ſeed.

*POISONER*. *n. f.* [from *poison*.]

1. One who poiſons.

I muſt be the *poisoner*

Of good Polixenes.

So many miſchiefs were in one combin'd;

So much one ſingle *poisoner* coſt mankind.

2. A corrupter.

Wretches who live upon other men's ſins, the common  
*poisoners* of youth, getting their very bread by the damnation  
of ſouls.

*POISONOUS*. *adj.* [from *poison*.] Venomous; having the qua-  
lities of *poison*.

Theſe cold ways,

That ſeem like prudent helps, are very *poisonous*,

Where the diſeaſe is violent.

Not ſtrius ſhoots a fiercer flame,

When with his *poisonous* breath he blaſts the ſky.

A lake, that has no freſh water running into it, will, by  
heat and its ſtagnation, turn into a ſtinking rotten puddle,  
ſending forth nauſeous and *poisonous* ſteam.

*POISONOUSLY*. *adv.* [from *poisonous*.] Venomouſly.

Men more eaſily pardon ill things done, than ill things  
ſaid; ſuch a peculiar rancour and venom do they leave be-  
hind in men's minds, and ſo much more *poisonously* and inecu-  
rably does the ſerpent bite with his tongue than his teeth.

*POISONOUSNESS*. *n. f.* [from *poisonous*.] The quality of being  
*poisonous*; venomouſneſs.

*POITREL*. *n. f.* [*poitreil*, *poitrine*, Fr. *pettorale*, Italian; *petto-  
rale*, Lat.]

1. Armour for the breaſt of a horſe.

2. A graving tool.

*POIZE*. *n. f.* [*poize*, French.]

1. Weight; force of any thing tending to the center.

He fell, as an huge rockie cliff,

Whoſe falſe foundation, waves have waſh'd away

With dreadful *poizes*, from the main land reſt.

When I have ſuit,

It ſhall be full of *poize* and difficulty,

And fearful to be granted.

2. Balance;

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2. Balance; equipoize; equilibrium.

To do't at peril of your ſoul,

Were equal *poize* of ſin and charity.

Where an equal *poize* of hope and fear

Does arbitrate th' event, my nature is

That I incline to hope.

The particles that formed the earth, muſt convene from all  
quarters towards the middle, which would make the whole  
compound to reſt in a *poize*.

'Tis odd to ſee fluctuation in opinion ſo earneſtly charged  
upon Luther, by ſuch as have lived half their days in a *poize*  
between two churches.

3. A regulating power.

Men of an unbounded imagination often want the *poize* of  
judgment.

To *POIZE*. *v. a.* [*poizer*, French.]

1. To balance; to hold or place in equiponderance.

How nice to couch? how all her ſpeeches *poized* be:

A nymph thus turn'd, but mended in tranſlation.

As the ſands

Of Barca or Cyrene's torrid ſoil,

Levy'd to ſide with warring winds, and *poize*

Their lighter wings.

Nor yet was earth ſuſpended in the ſky,

Nor *poize'd* did on her own foundation lie.

Our nation with united int'reſt bleſt,

Nor now content to *poize*, ſhall ſway the reſt.

Where could they find another form'd ſo fit,

To *poize* with ſolid ſenſe a ſprightly wit!

Th' all-perfect mind

That *poize'd*, impels and rules the ſteady whole.

2. To be equiponderant to.

If the balance of our lives had not one ſcale of reaſon to  
*poize* another of ſenſuality, the baleneſs of our natures would  
conduſt us to prepoſterous concluſions.

3. To weigh.

We *poizing* us in her defective ſcale

Shall weigh thee to the beam.

He cannot ſincerely conſider the ſtrength, *poize* the weight  
and diſcern the evidence of the cleareſt arguments, where  
they would conclude againſt his deſires.

4. To oppreſs with weight.

I'll ſtrive, with troubl'd thoughts, to take a nap,

Left leaden ſlumber *poize* me down to-morrow,

When I ſhould mount with wings of victory.

*POKE*. *n. f.* [*pocca*, Sax. *peche*, Fr.] A pocket; a ſmall  
bag.

I will not buy a pig in a *poke*.

She ſuddenly unties the *poke*,

Which out of it ſent ſuch a ſmoke,

As ready was them all to choke,

So grievous was the pothe.

My correſpondent writes againſt maſter's gowns and *poke*  
ſleeves.

To *POKE*. *v. a.* [*poka*, Swediſh.] To ſteal in the dark; to  
ſearch any thing with a long inſtrument.

If theſe preſumed eyes be clipped off, they will make uſe  
of their protrufions or horns, and *poke* out their way as  
before.

*POKER*. *n. f.* [from *poke*.] The iron bar with which men ſtir  
the fire.

With *poker* fiery red

Crack the ſtones, and melt the lead.

If the *poker* be out of the way, ſtir the fire with the  
tongs.

*POLAR*. *adj.* [*polaire*, Fr. from *pole*.] Found near the pole;  
lying near the pole; iſſuing from the pole.

As when two *polar* winds, blowing adverſe

Upon the Cronian ſea, together drive

Mountains of ice.

I doubt

If any ſuffer on the *polar* coaſt,

The rage of Arctos, and eternal froſt.

*POLARITY*. *n. f.* [from *polar*.] Tendency to the pole.

This polarity from refrigeration, upon extremity and defect  
of a loadſtone, might touch a needle any where.

*POLARY*. *adj.* [*polaris*, Lat.] Tending to the pole; having a  
direction toward the poles.

Irons, heated red hot, and cooled in the meridian from  
North to South, contract a *polar* power.

*POLE*. *n. f.* [*polus*, Lat. *pole*, Fr.]

1. The extremity of the axis of the earth; either of the points  
on which the world turns.

From the centre thrice to the utmoſt *pole*.

From *pole* to *pole*

The forky lightnings flaſh, the roaring thunders roll.

[*Pole*, Sax. *pal*, *pau*, Fr. *pala*, Italian and Spaniſh; *palus*,  
Lat.] A long ſtaff.

A long *pole*, ſtruck upon gravel in the bottom of the wa-  
ter, maketh a ſound.

If after ſome diſtinguiſh'd leap,

He drops his *pole*, and ſeems to ſlip;

2. Balance;

# POL

Straight gath'ring all his active ſtrength,

He riſes higher.

He ordered to arm long *poles* with ſharp hooks, wherewith  
they took hold of the tackling which held the mainyard to the  
maſt, then rowing the ſhip, they cut the tackling, and brought  
the mainyard by the board.

3. A tall piece of timber erected.

Wither'd is the garland of the war,

The ſoldier's *pole* is fall'n.

Live to be the ſhow and gaze o' th' time,

We'll have thee as our rarer monſters are

Painted upon a *pole*, and underwit,

Here may